

REMARKS

In the July 14, 2008 Office Action, claims 4 and 18-20 stand rejected in view of prior art, while claims 2, 3, 6-8, 10-12, 14-16, 21 and 22 were indicated as allowed. No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

Status of Claims and Amendments

In response to the July 14, 2008 Office Action, Applicants have canceled claims 4 and 18-20 as indicated above. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter and the thorough examination of this application. Thus, claims 2, 3, 6-8, 10-12, 14-16, 21 and 22 are pending, with claims 2, 10 and 14 being the only independent claims. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of above amendments and the following comments.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, claims 4 and 18-20¹ stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,323,989 to Hamada et al. In response, Applicants have canceled claims 4 and 18-20. Thus, Applicants believe the rejection as applied to claims 4 and 18-20 is now moot.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

Allowable Subject Matter

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, claims 2, 3, 6-8², 10-12, 14-16³, 21 and 22 were indicated as allowed. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable

¹ In paragraph 3 lines 1&2 of the Office Action, the Office Action indicates "Claims 4 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hamada et al. (5,323,989)." However, Applicants respectfully believe that this is a typographical error of "Claims 4 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hamada et al. (5,323,989)."

^{2,3} In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, the Office Action indicates "Claims 2-3, 6-7, 10-12, 14-26 and 21-22 are allowed." However, Applicants respectfully believe that this is a typographical error of "Claims 2-3, 6-8, 10-12, 14-16, 21 and 22 are allowed."

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subject matter and the thorough examination of this application.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 2, 3, 6-8, 10-12, 14-16, 21 and 22 are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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